

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 ACDA-12 AID-05 IO-13 /116 W

-----113626 051105Z /11

R 050600Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7833

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AOEMBASSY PARIS 3076

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEOBASSY TTIPOLI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NDJAMENA 3048

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINS, CD, LY

SUBJ: SITUATION IN CHAD

SUMMARY: IN LAST TWODAYS I HAVE HAD LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS WITH VICE PRESIDENT DJIME AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR REGARDING LOCAL SITUATION. BOTH ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT:

(A) WHILE MILITARY SITUATION REMAINS CALM, REBEL BUILD-UP

AT SALAL IS WORRISOME; (B) NEGOTIATIONS FOR RESOLUTION

OF CHADIAN PROBLEM ARE NOW LARGELY IN THE HANDS OF

FRENCH AND LIBYANS; (C) WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH TROOPS

IS STILL STUMBLING BLOC TO NEGOTIATIONS AND THERE

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IS NO SIGN OF FRENCH MOVING PRECIPITOUSLY ON THIS ISSUE; AND (D) REORGANIZATION OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS AGREED UPON IN PRINCIPLE, BUT IMPLEMENTATION IS STILL MOVING FORWARD AT A SNAIL'S PACE.

1. MILITARY: SITUATION REMAINS CALM. FRENCH REMAIN IN DEFENSIVE POSTURE AND ARE PATROLLING UP

TO A LINE 50 KMS SOUTH OF SALAL AND 30 KMS SOUTH OF ARADA. REBEL GARISON AT SALAL HAS AGAIN BEEN REINFORCED AND IS NOW UP TO APPROXIMATELY 800 MEN. NEW EQUIPMENT INCLUDES MORE ARMORED CARS, HEAVIER ARTILLERY, AND RADAR CONTROLLED ANTI-AIRCRAFT. REBEL RADIO YESTERDAY ISSUED A CALL FOR ALL REBEL TROOPS TO RETURN TO THEIR UNITS. SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS CALL UNKNOWN AS THERE HAVE BEEN PREVIOUS FALSE ALARMS. FRENCH REPORT THERE IS APPARENTLY TROUBLE BREWING BETWEEN LIBYAN REGULARS AND TOUBOU TRIBESMEN. LATTER HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM ARADA, LEAVING ONLY COMPANY OF LIBYANS AND SOME LOCAL ARAB REBELS.

2. NEGOTIATIONS: WITH THE COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF SEBHA GROUP AND THE FAILURE OF THE OAU TO MOVE INTO THE VACUUM, IT APPEARS LOCUS FOR NEGOTIATIONS HAS NOW MOVED TO PARIS. EARLIER FRENCH/LIBYAN TALKS ARE BEING FOLLOWED UP BY LOCAL APPROACHES OF FRENCH TO CHADIANS AND LIBYANS TO GOUKOUNI. THIS WAS ONE OF THE ITEMS TAKEN UP BY MINISTER GALLEY DURING HIS 4-DAY VISIT IN CHAD AND WAS SIMILARLY TO BE TAKEN UP BY JALLOUD WITH GOUKOUNI IN TRIPOLI YESTERDAY. (FRENCH ARE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT GOUKOUNI WILL DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN WHAT THE LIBYANS WANT HIM TO DO, AND THEY STILL HAVE GRAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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DOUBTS AS TO JALLOUD'S REAL INTENTIONS.) GENERAL SCENARIO BEING WORKED ON BY FRENCH AND LIBYANS IS WITHDRAWAL OF THE REBELS TO MARCH 27 LINE IN NORTHERN CHAD (IN EFFECT, THIS MEANS RETREAT FROM SALAL AND ARADA), AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM CEASE FIRE WITH AN ADEQUATE OBSERVATION COMMISSION. AT THIS POINT, FRENCH WOULD START WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS. SOME SORT OF A CONFERENCE, CONGRESS, OR OTHER MEETING TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WOULD THEN TAKE PLACE. THIS WOULD

BE BEFORE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FRENCH.

3. FRENCH WITHDRAWAL IS NOW BEING WORKED OUT CAREFULLY WITH CHADIANS AND IS BEING PUT MORE IN THE FORM OF TURNING OVER RESPONSIBILITY TO CHADIANS THAN A FRENCH RETREAT. MALLOUM HAD EARLIER ASKED FRENCH TO PROVIDE OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS FOR ALL NEW CHADIAN UNITS BEING FORMED. FRENCH HAD DEMURRED ON THE GROUNDS THIS WOULD BE RETURN TO COLONIALISM. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE AGREED TO FURNISH SUCH CADRES TO NEW CHADIAN UNITS (600

NOW IN TRAINING, 600 MORE TO BE RECRUITED) FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS. THIS CADRE WOULD BE DRAWN FROM EXISTING FRENCH TACTICAL UNITS IN MOUSSORO, ATI, MONGO AND ABECHÉ; AND IN ORDER TO KEEP FIGHTING STRENGTH UP ALONG THIS LINE, THE TRAINING WOULD BE DONE AT THESE LOCATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME THE FOREGOING IS TAKING PLACE, 320 CHADIAN NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND 40 OFFICERS WOULD BE SENT TO FRANCE FOR TRAINING. UPON THEIR RETURN, THEY WOULD START TAKING OVER THE DUTIES BEING PERFORMED BY THE FRENCH AND, AS THEIR UNITS WOULD THEN BE COMPLETELY OPERATIONAL, THE CORRESPONDING FRENCH UNIT WOULD BE WITHDRAWN. EQUIPMENT FOR THESE NEW UNITS REMAINS A PROBLEM, AND BOTH FRENCH AND CHADIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NDJAMENA 3048

GET INTO THE ACT.

4. REORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT: PROPOSED  
REORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT IS STILL MOVING SLOWLY  
WITH MEMBERS OF PRESENT CSM BECOMING MORE AND MORE  
RELUCTANT TO GIVE UP THEIR POSITIONS AND WITH HISEN  
HABRE DEMANDING MORE AND MORE AS THE PRICE OF HIS  
COOPERATION. DESPITE THIS, FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO  
ACCOMPANIED MINISTER GALLEY DURING CONVERSATIONS  
WITH BOTH PRESIDENT MALLOUM AND HISEN HABRE, SAID  
THE TWO MEN REMAIN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ACHIEVING SOME  
EARLY AGREEMENT. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID THE  
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CHADIANS WERE BEING PUSHED HARD BY HIS GOVERNMENT  
TO MOVE FORWARD ON THIS ISSUE,BUT THAT HE COULD  
NOT PREDICT JUST WHEN A BREAKTHROUGH WOULD OCCUR.  
VICE PRESIDENT DJIME WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC AND THOUGHT  
CHANGE WOULD COME SOON. AS HE TREATED SUBJECT  
A RELAXED MANNER, IT IS ASSUMED HE BELIEVES HIS  
PERSONAL POSITION (IN CHARGE OF GENDARMARIE) IS  
SECURE. FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND VICE PRESIDENT WERE  
OF THE OPINION THAT ONCE REORGANIZATION WAS EFFECTED  
AND HIGH RANKING MOSLEMS INCLUDED IN GOVERNMENT,  
CHADIANS WOULD BE IN A GOOD POSITION TO APPROACH  
SAUDIS AGAIN FOR ASSISTANCE IN COUNTERING QADHAFI'S  
AGGRESSION. BRADFORD

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## Message Attributes

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